



# Technical Assistance Services for Communities Colorado Smelter Superfund Site Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

**Contract No.:** EP-W-13-015  
**Task Order No.:** 2 OSRTI-TANA Support  
**Technical Directive No.:** #13 R8 Colorado Smelter TANA

## **Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA)**

**Site Name:** Colorado Smelter Superfund Site  
**Site Location:** Pueblo, Colorado  
**Date:** April 29, 2015

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked its contractors from the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program to review responses from community involvement interviews conducted at the Colorado Smelter Superfund site in Pueblo, Colorado, between 2012 and 2014 along with summaries of those responses and other background information. The purpose of the review was to extract technical assistance needs expressed by community members that if met, would help them more substantively participate in the Superfund decision making process. TASC reported the expressed technical assistance needs and provided preliminary recommendations for meeting those needs in a review document that was shared and discussed with the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group (CAG) on April 14, 2015. CAG members provided additional information about community technical assistance needs during that discussion. This report is a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) based on the documents reviewed and CAG member input.

Specifically TASC reviewed the following information:

- Community responses to an EPA questionnaire given during a 3-day door-to-door outreach to 175 community members in 2012.
- EPA's draft Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the site.
- Community responses to CIP interview questions (summary).
- Information found at the EPA website (<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/colorado-smelter>) and the Community Advisory Group's (CAG's) website (<http://www.eilerheights.org/pages/CAG.htm>).
- Information and news article links on the Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association website (<http://www.eilerheights.org/>).
- CAG member comments from the April 14, 2015 CAG meeting.

This table shows TASC’s recommendations for potential technical assistance to the CAG and communities affected by the Colorado Smelter Superfund site.

Expressed Community Need	Recommendation to Meet Need	Information Sources	Community Segments Assisted
<b><i>Community Outreach Actions</i></b>			
Education for avoiding exposure to site contaminants for children and families before school is out for the summer	Provide age-appropriate presentations and/or written materials to assist children and families in avoiding exposure to site-related contaminants (in English and Spanish) <b>(high priority)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG input (CAG comments referred to concern about children playing outside and residents gardening in affected residential soils)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members, families, children, schools</li> </ul>
Additional outreach to people in all affected neighborhoods	CAG members report encountering people in affected areas besides the Eilers Neighborhood that believe their neighborhood is not in the Superfund area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish and post detailed maps of affected neighborhoods (EPA has published a consent for access parcel map; EPA will publish an official site boundary map once it knows the nature and extent of contamination)</li> <li>• Distribute informational door-hangers for residences in affected areas (Spanish and English)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents in all affected neighborhoods</li> </ul>
Address confusion about legal and financial impacts of discovery of contamination on residential property	Clarify the responsibility of property owners if contamination is found on their property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superfund law</li> <li>• State law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affected residents, local realtors, local banks and lending institutions</li> </ul>
<b><i>Technical Advisor</i></b>			
Opportunity to review and understand technical documents	Technical assistance in reviewing documents, if/when requested by the CAG or other community groups Documents may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality Assurance Project Plan (including Sampling plans), associated timelines and standard operating procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov 2014 news article</li> <li>• Community responses to EPA survey</li> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG members</li> <li>• Community representatives, community members</li> </ul>

Expressed Community Need	Recommendation to Meet Need	Information Sources	Community Segments Assisted
Technical assistance to the community advisory group (CAG)	Technical advisor meetings for each of the three CAG subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sampling and analysis workgroup</li> <li>• Health education workgroup</li> <li>• Community outreach workgroup</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association website (CAG page)</li> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG members</li> </ul>
Assistance understanding groundwater impacts and other data in the future	Technical advisor assistance in identifying and presenting needed information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG members</li> <li>• Community representatives, community members</li> </ul>
Assistance understanding Superfund risk assessment versus state public health assessment	Technical advisor assistance in identifying specific information needs and presenting needed information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG members</li> <li>• Community representatives, community members</li> </ul>
<b><i>Workshops and Presentations</i></b>			
Information on Superfund program and timeline  Information on if/when/how site will be divided into operable units for investigation and cleanup  Information on EPA, state and community roles and actions that can help “speed up” the Superfund process	Series of presentations on Superfund program and this site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Superfund Education Plan (complete)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association website (CAG page)</li> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG members</li> <li>• Elected officials</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>

Expressed Community Need	Recommendation to Meet Need	Information Sources	Community Segments Assisted
<p>Information about potential health effects and exposures to site-related lead and arsenic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From residential areas (immediate need)</li> <li>From slag piles</li> </ul> <p>Analysis of data showing actual elevated blood lead/other health issues in community.</p>	<p>Workshop(s), led by Pueblo City County Health Dept. (PCCHD) and involving local elementary schools, on blood lead level testing (when, where, how, cost, confidentiality, what to do if results are positive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATSDR Exposure Investigation took place in September 2013, (Final report is being finalized.)</li> <li>PCCHD received EPA grant for community outreach and public health education, “Public Health Practice: Lead Characterization and Risk Reduction through Education in Pueblo County”</li> <li>PCCHD contacted state to get clarification on data that some CAG members believe show no lead impacts for their community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2014 news article</li> <li>Community responses to EPA survey</li> <li>PCCHD grant work plan</li> <li>CDPHE lead program information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School personnel</li> <li>Residents near the site</li> <li>Community members</li> <li>Elected officials</li> <li>CAG</li> </ul>
<p>Information on institutional controls (ICs) and how community members can provide input</p>	<p>Workshop to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose and types of ICs</li> <li>Potential effects of ICs on neighborhood</li> <li>Mechanisms for community input for choosing ICs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News articles (effects on property values)</li> <li>Community responses to EPA survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents living near the site</li> <li>Elected officials</li> </ul>
<p>Information about sampling of exterior soil and indoor dust</p>	<p>Workshop to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the planned Pacific Western Technologies (PTW) video to demonstrate the process of indoor dust and exterior soil sampling</li> <li>Discuss impact on homeowner, property values, etc.</li> <li>Discuss EPA’s letter for clean property</li> <li>Revisit institutional controls fact sheet and EPA website</li> <li>Discuss PCCHD role in sampling for lead in interior/exterior paint, consumer products, and tap water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct 2014 CAG meeting notes</li> <li>May and Nov 2014 news articles</li> <li>Community responses to EPA survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents considering giving consent for access to sample soil and/or interior dust</li> <li>Elected officials</li> </ul>

<i>News Articles, Written Materials, Fact Sheets</i>			
Information about lead and arsenic exposure from bare soil, gardening and eating homegrown produce	Revisit and possibly update health fact sheets published by EPA, ATSDR, and the local health department; add links on the Colorado Smelter webpage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need age appropriate materials for children and families (in English and Spanish)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan 2014 news article</li> <li>• Community responses to EPA survey</li> <li>• CAG input regarding outreach to children and families before school is out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property owners</li> <li>• Renters</li> <li>• Gardeners</li> <li>• CAG/community members</li> <li>• Elected officials</li> </ul>
Updates on site activities	Continue providing information for news articles about site activities and community events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG wants assistance in writing Articles to keep the public informed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association website</li> <li>• Various news articles</li> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Elected officials</li> <li>• Interested stakeholders</li> </ul>
Easily accessible information about the site	Maintain an easily accessible (in Pueblo City-County Library) story board of history, current status, upcoming events, Superfund process timeline, and available resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit/advertise EPA's Colorado Smelter website and information provided on it.</li> <li>• Advertise the site repository information at the Pueblo City-County Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community responses to EPA survey</li> <li>• Draft CIP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Interested stakeholders</li> </ul>
Detailed information about how EPA will handle any discovery of lead or arsenic from other sources, such as lead-based paint or arsenic from pesticides; lead disclosure or environmental "recognized environmental conditions" disclosure requirements following the availability of analytical data, other relevant topics, as needed	Fact sheets on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condensed version of sampling plans for outside soil and dust in homes (<b>near-term need</b>)</li> <li>• Sources of lead and arsenic and how these sources will be differentiated from contamination caused by Colorado Smelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2014 news article</li> <li>• CAG input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Interested stakeholders</li> <li>• Property owners</li> </ul>

The population of the affected area is more than 50 percent Hispanic/Latino; therefore, TASC recommends that all written materials be presented in both English and Spanish and that all workshops include real-time Spanish/English translation.

## **TASC Contact Information**

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